

## Panel Discussion at CREO Syndicate Meeting

Talking points for Jeremy Tarr

Thursday, December 7

### 10:15 Panel “The Roadmap to a Zero-Carbon Energy System”

- Mark Laabs, Modern Energy (moderator)
- Geert van de Wouw, Managing Director, Shell Technology Ventures
- Brian Murray, Director, Duke University Energy Initiative
- Greg Lindsay, Senior Fellow, NewCities
- Jeremy Tarr, Policy Advisor, Office of Governor Cooper

### Topics for Discussion

#### General Message

- NC is an exciting market for clean energy
  - #2 in solar, established market
  - Bipartisan bill to move clean energy forward, double solar in 4-5 years. Not the end of the story, but it's a good next step
  - Gov strongly supports the transition from fossil to clean energy
  - Opportunities in NC for energy efficiency, solar, wind, biogas, gov't building efficiency, building code updates, support for clean energy financing
- Gov is committed to addressing climate change, both mitigation and adaptation
  - Actions, not labels, are most important (reducing emissions more important than talking about climate change all the time)
  - Actions that reduce energy usage and the carbon intensity of our electricity (mitigation)
  - Actions that protect people and property from climate risks, including floods and storms (adaptation)
- State has a role in supporting investment in clean energy technologies
  - Listen to markets and respond. Encourage positive trends w/o picking winners.
  - Subsidies have helped NC (keep property tax abatement, lost state tax credit)
  - Create markets: transportation infrastructure (e.g., charging stations)
  - Lead by example: building efficiency, state fleets, gov't purchasing power
  - Raise awareness
  - Convene stakeholders to develop strategies
  - Partnerships
  - Would like to hear your thoughts on how the state can advance clean energy, what's worked in other states

#### Role of policy in affecting system-level change

- Consider when/how gov't should be more/less involved (help vs get out of the way)
  - Depends upon topic, authority, need
  - Balance humility and conviction. Gov't is part of a larger ecosystem of stakeholders. Yet gov't leadership is important and can be instrumental. NC examples...
    - Ex. Climate Alliance
    - Ex. No offshore testing/drilling
    - Ex. Support of clean energy
    - Ex. NGA LBE energy assurance micro-grid

- Gov't can raise profile of issues, convening, set targets, LBE gov't action. Establish policies that move us in the right direction (financial incentives, streamline systems, aspirational and mandated targets, interstate cooperation).
- State leadership is important, given the pace and scope of federal action
  - Our residents need good policy, even if we can't count on federal gov't to provide it
  - States a countervailing force to fed gov't. Maintain our standard of what's right in policy (don't let fatigue lead to concessions on what's right)
  - Collective action among states valuable (e.g., USCA)
  - Independent action important, too. Proving concepts in NC can help expand policies to other states (beyond leadership states). Ex. Transitioning to clean energy, coastal resilience.

#### Timeline for policy impact

- Need action now, for near-term results.
- But also keep awareness that today's policies have long-term impacts (path dependency for future decisions).
- Take advantage of opportunities under existing authority.

#### Key actions necessary to move to a zero-carbon energy system

- Importance is results, not necessarily the message (reduce CO2 more important than saying "climate change").
- State-level action important. Ex. USCA.
- Get reductions from beyond power sector: transportation, industry, land management, biomass
- Think systemically
  - Advanced transportation: more efficiency and electrification, solve hwy funding concerns, develop workforce and job creation, university research, policies that flex with unpredictable futures,
  - Clean energy: residential/utility scale/corporate, incentives and competition w/n monopoly structure
- Not just about NC or US reducing emissions, we need to reduce emissions in a way that develops clean technologies so they are competitive in the developing world

#### Transportation

- \$92M VW funds
- Participate in and reap the opportunities of trends, without picking technology winners: electrification, ride sharing, autonomy
- Potential for a state plan on transportation: bigger than VW, consumer benefits, economic development benefits, address effects on DOT revenue streams
- Tools for supporting investment in clean technologies

#### If asked

ACP

DEQ and other departments are reviewing state permit applications and ensuring they have all information needed to evaluate the applications against permit criteria established by federal and state law.